

was absolutely necessary: they had already preserved the building from further decay as far as was possible, and the drainage and the roofing had been attended to. When the exterior was finished they might depend upon it the internal arrangements would not be lost sight of.

The clergy present each shewed their warm concurrence in the object at heart. The health of the architects being drunk, Mr. Britton remarked, that he had been thinking that day of the difference between the times now and fifty years ago; there were no steam engines then, no railroads, but that day he had been enabled to leave London, and in a few hours to have the pleasure of meeting that numerous and respectable company. He trusted that the good work which had been commenced, would progress to completion. The connection he had had with Redcliffe Church had given him the greatest pleasure, and his fondest hope was to see the church restored to its pristine beauty. He had resigned his part in the undertaking to his friend, Mr. Godwin, and had only to say in conclusion, that Bristol had his best wishes for its prosperity and restoration to the position it once enjoyed as the second maritime city.

Mr. Godwin said he was glad to be able to state, after a careful survey that day, that the timbers of the roofs not yet attended to were in a much better state than could be expected, so that they might be made perfect and reloaded with comparatively small outlay, and thus the present annual plumber's bills would be avoided. He would augur well for the future progress of the work from the meeting of that day, and the spirit there displayed. Mr. Britton had alluded to the changes of the last 50 years: in nothing was this change greater than as related to architectural as well as other antiquities, the value of which was then disregarded and unknown. The more thoroughly the works of the mediæval architects were studied, the more manifest their beauties became: inventive genius and constructive skill were alike displayed. Within a very short time men highest in authority had believed and taught that, picturesque and beautiful as these works were, they were the result of caprice and chance, whereas late researches had proved that little had been left to chance:—the whole was the result of a system of geometrical proportion, even yet not thoroughly mastered. In no building was the genius of the early architects shewn more fully than in the church which was the object of their care, and which all England were interested in preserving. If the spirit of the present age was opposed to the erection of such elaborate and costly structures, at least we should preserve and hand down to our children those which our forefathers have left us.

Mr. W. P. King said he had returned from London with a refrain which he heard there ringing in his ears:—

"There's a good time coming boys,
Wait a little longer."

and when he entered that room, and found it so full, he felt assured that the good time was come. Now, having once established it, if they ever deserted the Canynge's Society, if they ever suffered it to fall into decay, God only knew what might befall them. It would be like the old story of the crane at Cologne. At a time when the structure was not completed, but it was the intention of the citizens to do so, there always stood on the top of the tower a crane, which was an evidence that the people would sometime renew the work. At one period of the history of Cologne, it was taken away, and the most magnificent production of gothic intellect appeared to be for ever at a stand still; but a plague fell on the city, and the superstition was that it was in consequence of the removal of the crane, and the thereby evident renouncing of the intention of proceeding with the work. The crane was therefore put up again, and the pestilence left the city. The lesson which they might draw from this was, that if the Canynge Society were allowed to fall, there was no knowing

what calamity might come upon Bristol. Their safety would be to keep up the society. They saw the Exchange in the course of repair, and no doubt admired it, and he could tell them that that was owing entirely to the restoration of St. Mary Redcliffe having been commenced. Let it not be said that the people of Bristol were destitute of taste: those who had heard the observations of the people respecting the beauty of the building, could bear witness that not only the people but the populace had taste. The citizens, he believed, were proud of their public buildings, and would not wish to have them go to decay, and he, for one, expressed a hope that they would cultivate good architecture, not only in restoring their old, but in building new ones. He believed that they had a taste for gothic architecture, and they had that day among them the man who originated that taste, Mr. Britton. They had, however, amongst themselves one who had done much for it, and he would give them "The Church Goer," (the cognomen of an able member of the Bristol press).

Mr. Joseph Leech, in reply, said that if in any way the press could advance the noble project in which they were engaged, and then met to celebrate, he was confident they would be most happy to do so. It should be remembered that when the first stone of the great and stately structure—the restoration of which was the object of their assembling that day—was laid, there was no press in existence: and yet, without the aid of that, and without the stimulus of public applause, it rose in majesty and beauty. Surely, then, it would be to the shame both of this age and the press, if, with the aid of the latter, the assistance of the physical sciences, since so enlarged, and of the boasted march of intellect, they could not keep from decay that which without such improved aids their predecessors had raised.

Mr. G. F. Powell, another gentleman connected with the local press, said, that every member of it felt that the venerable structure which it was sought to restore was so intimately connected with the history of Bristol, that it would be discreditable to the citizens were they to allow it to crumble to decay. It was not merely in the light of an ecclesiastical edifice that they should regard it, although in that point of view it was most important, but as a specimen of ancient architecture: and as a monument of the munificence of their ancestors, it had a claim upon the liberality of the entire kingdom.

We are anxious to aid in making this claim heard, and in ensuring a recognition of it.

RUMOURED EXCLUSION OF THE CITY FROM THE GENERAL METROPOLITAN SURVEY.

It is currently rumoured in quarters not likely to be misinformed on the subject, that "the City" is to be excluded in the general survey of the metropolis and its environs, which is now being actively prosecuted. The present occupation of the cross of St. Paul's as an observing station; and the placing of objects on some of the church towers within the city is no proof that the rumour, improbable as it may appear, is unfounded; the occupation of the one being necessary, if not indispensable, for the reduction of the "bases" to be used in the metropolitan survey, from the primary "triangulation" of the country, and the erection of the objects being essential for the fixture of certain ascertainable points on the public buildings.

It is desirable that the public should be made aware, through the press, of the probable grounds of this exclusion, and also of some of its more than probable consequences. For the better and more general understanding of these particulars, a few facts may be premised, known, it is true, to many of the readers of *THE BUILDER*, but which cannot be too well understood by the public at large.

Until of late years, that part of vital statistics which treats of the relative mortality of different places under different circumstances, was but little understood; because, being an unattractive subject, it was but little attended to. No sooner, however, had the attention of intelligent medical men been fully and comprehensively directed to the subject, than the vast disproportion of deaths occur-

ring in town as compared with rural districts, and of certain towns compared with other towns, became strikingly apparent. With a view to the discovery of the latent causes of such alarming, and, in many cases, increasing mortality amongst large masses of the population, the Governments of the day appointed commissioners to inquire into the subject of "the health of towns;" and in the prosecution of these inquiries it was invariably found that, in those districts where the public and private sewerage, the supply of water to the inhabitants, and the ventilation of dwelling-houses, were most defective, the mortality was incalculably the greatest. For the purpose of extending the inquiries made by the Government commissions, and of directing public attention the more to the importance of rectifying or repairing the past neglect of the sanitary condition of large towns, and possibly with the ulterior object in view of accelerating the introduction and passing, by the Legislature, of a Public Health Bill, the Health of Towns Association was organised, and put into active operation, by men of ability and zeal in the cause of sanitary reform. Among other modes adopted, by this association, of collecting information, the unusual, and perhaps scarcely justifiable one, was resorted to of sending circulars, containing leading questions, to individuals in many of the principal towns of the kingdom, and publishing the replies of these anonymous correspondents, as conclusive evidence of incapacity, and want of integrity, on the part of existing corporate and other public bodies, for carrying forward any general system of sanitary improvement, and of venality, corruption, misappropriation, &c., in their past public conduct. Imputations like these excited considerable indignation in many of the parties attacked, and in none greater than the corporation of London, who, if they were to be bespattered with dirt, naturally desired to see and know their assailants.

These and other collateral causes have converted the city authorities into active and, apparently, irreconcilable opponents of the Government, in the various steps they have tardily enough taken for the advancement of sanitary reform.

Among the most obvious causes of the defective drainage of towns is admitted by all competent authorities to be the system hitherto followed of draining partially, by small and isolated localities, without having a due regard to the works of a similar nature previously constructed, or likely to be constructed, in adjacent or proximate localities. The highly objectionable nature of this system is now universally admitted; instead of which, it is known, that to drain a district effectively, it must be drained as a whole, and in order to do so, it is necessary to obtain a comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the relative distances, and levels, of all its parts. The only practical methods of obtaining this information is by constructing a connected map of the district of sufficient accuracy and magnitude, having the levels of all its parts exhibited upon it, and referred to one unalterable datum plane.

The metropolis, it is well known, was until very recently subdivided into an almost endless number of distinct districts, the sewerage of each being presided over by separate and independent commissions; and the powers of nearly the whole of these commissions being consolidated, are now exercised by the recently appointed Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.

One of the strongest recommendations in the report of commissioners appointed by the Government last year, to inquire into the sanitary condition of the metropolis, and to determine upon the most practicable mode of its amelioration, was to have immediate steps taken to make a general survey, which should embrace the entire metropolis and its environs: and one of the first important acts of the present Commissioners of Sewers upon their appointment, was the taking immediate measures for having that survey made.

It is from this general survey that "the City" is to be excluded, and the space it should occupy upon the map, which was described with considerable minuteness in *THE BUILDER* of the 17th June, is to be represented, if we are correctly informed, by about 24 square feet of blank paper! We are decidedly indisposed

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